

The Future

"I have even heard on good authority that I was dead...The report of my death was an exaggeration." – Mark Twain



Being your pastor continues to be the greatest joy of my life...

Your pastor has it on good authority that he has put in his notice of resignation to First Lutheran Church Council! This was, like the rumors of Twain's death, an exaggeration. Council has hit upon a new plan for transition between my ministry here and the next pastor's (whose identity is yet to be determined).

In order to call someone before I leave so that First will be spared the often lengthy process of interim ministries (Trinity Lutheran in town waited three years before finding their outstanding current pastor, Will Stenke!), we needed to present a date at which this person can expect to take over the duties of Senior Pastor. The date I decided upon was January 1, 2023.

This date leaves me two more Christmas seasons here and gives the new pastor time to work on specific projects (like energizing the youth program, getting to know church members, and exploring with Council a vision on future directions for the church) without having to immediately assume Senior Pastor duties. The new pastor's three-year call will allow time for the congregation and pastor to grow to understand and love each other before I leave.

Why would I find it necessary to leave? On Jan. 1, 2023, I will be 8 months from turning 70. I have had both heart and cancer surgeries, and First Lutheran deserves and needs a healthy pastor. I greatly desire a productive retirement and don't know how long that will be possible, especially if I don't step away from Senior Pastor responsibilities in a timely fashion.

Being your pastor continues to be the greatest joy of my life, next to the woman who stands beside me and constantly amazes me. God gave me a great gift when I was allowed to return to my home church and be pastor, and that gift still delights me. I love you all very much and would not consider leaving if it wasn't both God's will and necessary for you and me.

When you love people, you want the best for them. I believe with all my heart that this plan is the best for all of us, and I can't wait to meet the one whom God has in mind for First Lutheran!

Love, Pr. Bob

Celebrate

175th Anniversary Celebration



In looking ahead to our church's Anniversary Celebration, First Lutheran Church has planned some exciting Sunday morning services that you will not want to miss!



On **October 10**, our congregation will be led in song by an 1850's pump organ played by organist, Miriam Gibson. Hymns and liturgy from this time period will be included in this service.



The following Sunday, **October 17**, the year 1921 will be celebrated during the worship service. Will we see any changes in the style of the service from the previous 75 years? Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will be preaching. Following our morning worship, a luncheon will be enjoyed at The Elks Lodge.



On Sunday, **October 24**, morning worship will again be celebrated in the style of 1996. This service will be familiar to many and may remind you of days gone by. In the afternoon from 1:00-4:00, the church will be open for guided tours. These tours will include the history of the church and a visit to the organ loft to see and hear the beautiful Rodgers Hybrid organ and a view of the 1881 foundation.



Sunday, **October 31, Reformation Sunday**, will be a glorious day of rejoicing for First Lutheran Church, as we celebrate how far we have come on our journey of 175 years. The topic for the day will be, "Where Do We Go From Here?"



Food Cart Requests

Kleenex,
Laundry Soap,
Boxed Side Dishes
All donations to LSS
The cart is in the coat room.



CATECHISIM ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADERS

will begin with an orientation for parents and students on September 15th at 7:00. If you have a 7th or 8th grader, please contact Pastor Bob or the church office. Regular classes will begin on October 6th.



....will be held on Sept. 12th and 19th at 9:30 in the church

Library. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith, or would like to join our family here at First, please join us. For more information speak to Pastor Bob, or call the church office.



Friday, September 17

9:00am—5:00pm

Saturday, September 18

9:00am—12Noon

Please bring gently used items and place them on the back of the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please, No TV's! We cannot accept them. We are especially in need of children's clothing.

We will need lots of help the week of the sale. Set up will begin on Tuesday, September 14th. Please put these dates on your calendars to come and give a helping hand. You do not need to sign up for a particular time, just come when you are able. We also need help for clean-up after the sale on Saturday. Since the Salvation Army is no longer doing pick-ups anymore, we will also need a few trucks to take things to our local Salvation Army Store on Saturday.

The proceeds from this year's sale will be going to *Pastor Bob's Discretionary Fund, LCC Canina Comfort Dog Ministry, and International Women's Leaders Fund* (to help educate women through the ELCA). This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial who have provided seed money for advertising, food, etc. Any questions? Contact Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2226 or 419-348-6164.



BOLDNESS is a call to action. As Women of the ELCA, women who are claimed and called by God, we believe that a life lived **boldly** is a faith-filled celebration and an investment in the world we want for ourselves and our children.

WELCA's mission statement calls us to act **boldly**. What does this mean? It means a variety of things, for **boldness** has a range of voices. Some voices are bright and loud. Some are firm and quiet. Do you know what is your "**best bold**"? So **boldly** claim your **boldness** today, declaring, "I am she!" Women of the ELCA celebrates this range of voices, knowing that the avenues for **bold** self-expression are limitless.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant. . . . Since then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6a, 12

September WELCA Calendar

Rachel Circle
In-service for Sept.

Sept. 14
Rachel Circle
1:00 PM lunch
Scrambler's Marie's

Sept. 14
Martha Circle
9:00AM
Church Library

Sept. 14-16
Rummage Sale set up

Sept. 17
Rummage Sale
9:00 – 5:00 PM

Sept. 18
Rummage Sale
9:00 – 12:00 PM

Sept. 20
Hannah Circle
7:00 PM
Church Library

Sept. 28
WELCA Board
ThankOffering
Service Planning
1:00 PM

Oct. 9
Central Conference
Good Hope, Arlington

Welcome to the month of September. The month's name comes from the Latin word "septem", meaning "seven". This month had originally been the seventh month of the early Roman calendar. The month symbolizes the end of summer, the beginning of autumn, and the start of school.

In Old England, it was called Haervest-Monath (Harvest Month), the time to gather up the rest of the harvest and prepare for the winter months.

There are flowers enough in the summertime,
More flowers than I can remember –
But none with the purple, gold, and red
That dye the flowers of September!

-Mary Howitt (1799-1888)

Many days of note are celebrated in September (check your calendar): Labor Day, Patriot Day, Grandparents Day, Constitution Day, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Autumnal Equinox, and Michaelmas. Take time to celebrate this month.

In case you have nothing else to celebrate, try All American Breakfast Month, Backpack Safety Month, Classical Music Month, Happy Cat Month, International Square-Dancing Month, National Chicken Month, National Italian Cheese Month, National Mushroom Month, National Piano Month, National Potato Month, Save Your Photos Month – and these are just a few. Actually, every day of every month celebrates something!

The Full Corn Moon is scheduled at 7:55 a.m. September 20.

Many think of September as the month of apples. Make an apple pie, apple waffles with apple cider syrup, applesauce, or baked apples filled with sausage. My parents had a "five kinds of apples" apple tree. My mom was the queen of apple recipes, my favorite was apple dumplings ; she did not use a "whole apple" in each dumpling. Rather she diced apples, much easier to eat and great warm with a bit of milk in the bowl.

Some thoughts to remember:

Heavy September rains bring drought.

September dries up ditches or breaks down bridges.

September blows soft, til the fruit's in the loft.

Married in September's golden glow, smooth and serene your life will go.

If the storms of September clear off warm, the storms of the following winter will be warm.

Fair on September 1st, fair for the month.

"Now", you ask, "what is going on with your reading?" "Okay", I reply, "here goes..."

I am two-thirds of the way through the 788-page short story book from the church library Great Short Stories of the World. I am not one to read many short stories, preferring the more complicated plots of fiction and non-fiction yet these stories are captivating and can be read in one sitting.

I did finish reading The Witches of Eastwick by John Updike for my book club of Northwest Ohio. I was also greatly disappointed in the plot. The book had great potential but the plot surrounded the three witches enchantment by the representative devil; the story was lame.

I am halfway through the Eleanor and Franklin 930-page book. And I work through a chapter a week in How Can I Help? It is truly a text that needs to be read and processed. And, I did begin reading our church book club book, The Undertaker's Assistant. More on that one later.

So, what have I been doing instead of reading? Mainly processing through the results of the electrical storm that passed through, I think it was the 11th. One brief moment of lightning blew out the dryer, all the cable boxes, and an upright freezer full of meat. Clothes have been drying on the line until we could find a repairman (Ralph's Joy of Living). TV was silent until we received the correct cable box. Spectrum was down to three when Paul picked up ours. Two TV's are still silent until "the truck comes in next week." I have spent time with grandchildren, been busy at my Reiki studio, mowing when it's not raining, and, as always, spending time with Brook and Paul.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

Good News and More!

By now you have seen the beautiful blooms of the Good News Garden! Maybe you have taken home a tomato, zucchini, or cucumber from its bounty. Or one of the sunflowers from the gorgeous bucketful picked by Carolyn Bryant. Since 2008, this has been a source of pride and accomplishment and sharing for our congregation to our community. Some of the produce has gone to the Community Dinners when we were in person, some went into the Good News Garden Harvest Vegetable Beef Barley Soup. This year we have primarily given produce away at services and to LSS. Our flowers have been the scene for community photographers and walkers' admiration as they pass.

As a part of our 175th Anniversary Celebration, we have added a meditation garden to the south of the Good News Garden. Karen Rose has taken the lead on the contacts for design and planting of this special garden. The Anniversary committee had asked for \$17,000 for establishment of the garden and received all of the money from the Memorial Fund. All additional monies collected will go toward the maintenance of the garden in the future with return of funds for the Memorial Fund. The design was done by former director of the Hancock County Parks District, Tim Brugeman, at no charge to the church. Karen lined up a landscape architect for the layout and planting according to Brugeman's design. And, although we were hopeful it would be complete by October, the plantings are actually in and taking root. Plan to take a stroll through the beds on the path. There is still a sign to come, a bench, and some other touches, but we can enjoy it already. Blessings and more blessings!!



Social Ministry is in need of **wide mouth quart or pint jars** for a project they will be working on. Lids and rings also. If you are not canning anymore we would be happy to have them. Look for the big blue box where they could be placed. Thank you.

Hello from the Social Ministry Committee!

Did you ever wonder where all the change from the Noisy Offering goes?

We all have fun making a clang with our donation, especially when the children ushers are in charge of the buckets. After the clanging ends, the Social Ministry Committee gets to work as the church organization responsible for designating Noisy Offering charities. We typically "save up" several months of donations before sending the gift from First.

Most recently, we sent \$450 to *Project Happy Feet*, a shoe voucher program run by the Christian Clearinghouse in Findlay. This donation provided nine Hancock County kids with a voucher to go to the store and pick out their own new shoes for school.

So keep clanging, our last Noisy Offering was nearly \$40 and our next charity beneficiary appreciates the noise!

Thanks, Rob Leipheimer

Community Dinner Back in Business....We Hope!

Our first in-person Community Dinner is this month. We continue to serve meals with your help, and although September 5 is Labor Day Weekend, we hope you can make this happen. However, as I always say...if you can't help this month, there will be another next month!



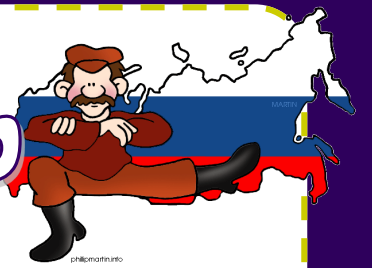
PROJECTS NEEDED

Well now, how often is it that we don't have a need for funding, that the problem is we have the funding and are in need of projects. We need your help.

Please. The Endowment Committee is in search of projects outside the physical confines of First Lutheran; that is Christian projects, education projects, service projects. The Endowment Committee will entertain applications for our Missionary Outreach funds. Our mission statement includes this outreach. Please contact the church office for an application. Go do God, go do good. Love your neighbor.



All Aboard the STEWARD SHIP



добро пожаловать в

Welcome to Vladivostok, RUSSIA!

The unofficial capital of the Russian Far East and one of Russia's most important commercial ports and naval bases, **Vladivostok** ('Master the East') is also a thoroughly charming city, with a gorgeous, hilly setting, striking architecture and numerous verdant islands and sandy bays along its Pacific coastline. Most notable of these is Golden Horn Bay (named for its likeness to Istanbul's), over which now soars a massive suspension bridge, one of two built in recent years that have hugely improved the city's lumbering Soviet infrastructure. The rest of Russia slowly seems to be waking up to Vladivostok's potential as well. In 2016 St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre inaugurated its impressive glass and steel Primorsky Stage, while the Hermitage Vladivostok is due to open in 2018. Vladivostok buzzes with cocktail bars, excellent restaurants and a renewed sense of purpose – don't miss the Far East's most dynamic and fast-paced city.



The Oldest Church in Vladivostok: St. Paul Lutheran

You can even attend a concert at the oldest church in town: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Paul! [Yes! There is a Lutheran church in Vladivostok!] The congregation was organized in Vladivostok just five years after city's founding. Built in the late 19th century, the Gothic church had 3000 members at the

time of the Revolution but their minister was arrested in the 1930's and was never seen again. The church was repurposed as a naval museum until the 1990's when it became a living church again. Extensive repairs and renovations were required but it is now a congregation with about 200 members. Its pastor is German and serves as the only pastor in Far East Russia. The building is also used for concerts.



VLADIVOSTOK
RUSSIA



All Aboard the STEWARD SHIP

★ SIBERIA

Lutherans in Siberia?

Though the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia (ELCR) was subject to persecution, repression and abandonment during the communist era, it managed to survive by the grace of God and the faithfulness and perseverance of its members.

From 1922 to 1991 the Russian government only tolerated the practice of religion behind closed doors, executing or exiling Lutheran bishops and pastors, closing church buildings and requiring Christians to worship in secret. Now free to re-engage in its ministry and mission activities publicly, the ELCR hopes to reach more people with God's word. Today the ELCR has 50,000 members in 300 congregations spread across the eight time zones of this expansive country. The church's repressive history, combined with the vast distances between churches and the lack of resources, has made it difficult to offer formal theological training and equip a new generation of leaders. These needs are especially noted in the region of Siberia.



Pastor Bradn Buerkle is cosponsored by the ELCA and the German Lutheran church. Pr. Buerkle serves as a pastor and an educator in partnership with ELCER (Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia). Bradn arrived in Russia 20 years ago and currently is engaged in a program to equip congregations with educational programs to meet their needs and serves as dean of the Far East. The ELCA program, called *Siberia: Equipping for Service*, seeks to build up the Lutheran church in Russia. Bradn is pictured (left) with his wife, Natalia.



Bradn Buerkle, ELCA missionary in St. Petersburg, Russia, shared, "When I saw how many great laypeople there were whose circumstances were such that they wouldn't get to seminary, I decided to talk with church leaders about developing a program to promote theological education on a local level. In the Russian context, you have to be willing to endure great hardships to be Lutheran, so seeing the way the church grows stronger through this ministry is very rewarding." - from *ELCA Global Mission*

"... you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others." - 2 Corinthians 9:13



Sunflowers---Reaching Heavenward!

In the spring when we looked at the Good News Garden to decide where to put what (yes, we do plan the garden by quarters---tomatoes, zucchini, cukes; annuals; perennials; and sunflowers), we found a whole corner where many (maybe a 50!) sunflowers had already sprouted as volunteers. One of the sappier members of the Garden Committee couldn't just pull them and throw them away. So many of you took home rather sad looking specimens in orange paper cups. One member thought she might have to give hers CPR! We didn't think much about it, but low and behold, tales of success stories started to trickle in. "Mine's up to the eaves of the garage!" "It's 12 feet tall!" So, "blooming where you grow" is NOT just a platitude for cross stitch pillows. It has been fun to see the pictures....thanks to Nina for including them in this issue. The cover is designed by Isaiah Moyer, one of the AMA artists.



September Volunteers

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LECTORS

Sept. 5
9:30

Sept. 12
8:15 –
10:45-

Sept. 19
8:15 –
10:45-

Sept. 26
8:15 –
10:45-

GREETERS

Sept. 5
9:30

Sept. 12
8:15 –
10:45-

Sept. 19
8:15 –
10:45-

Sept. 26
8:15 –
10:45 -

ALTAR GUILD

Joan Swisher
Elaine Timbrook

COUNTERS

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

LSS DELIVERY

Martha Schmidt

FLOWER DELIVERY

Martha Schmidt

COMMUNION BREAD

Sept. 5 - Elaine Timbrook
Sept. 12 - Dawn Franks
Sept. 19- Janet Wobser
Sept. 26 - Cindy Thompson

COOKIE SUNDAY

Sept. 5 - Community Dinner
Sept. 12 - Church Council
Sept. 19 - Social Ministry
Sept. 26 - Hannah Circle

DEACONS

Sept. 5 (9:30)
Paul Brooks
Marilynn Dunn

8:15
Sept. 12 & 19
Marilynn Dunn
Nikki Needles

Sept. 26
Paul Brooks
Marilynn Dunn

10:45
Judy Kipker
Evan Pitt

SOUND ROOM

Sept. 5
9:30– Tim Roth

Sept. 12
8:15– Dave Gerber
10:45– Jerry Bryant

Sept. 19
8:15– Tim Roth
10:45– Steve Roth

Sept. 26
8:15– Tim Roth
10:45– Falkyn Roth

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sept. 5- Charlie Crates
Sept. 12 - Bev Yammine
Sept. 19 - Janet Wobser
Sept. 26- Marilynn Dunn

Forms for your bulletin
announcement are available
on the bulletin board and at
1stLutheranChurch.org.

Flowers need to be delivered to
the church by noon on Friday.

DRIVERS

Sept. 5—Jerry Bryant
Sept. 12– Mike Zawisza
Sept. 19—Aaron Ried
Sept. 26—Pam Cochran

USHERS

8:15 -

10:45 -

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15/10:45
Sept. 5 - (9:30)
Sept. 12 -
Sept 19 -
Sept. 26 -

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September 2021

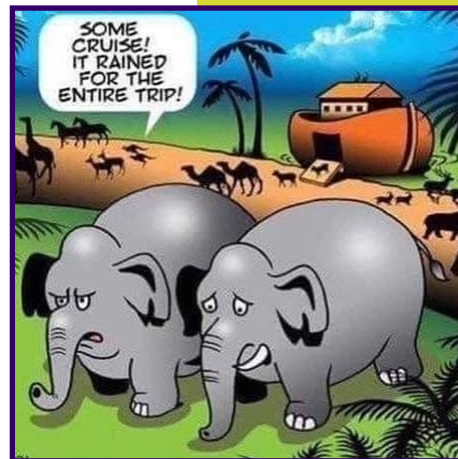
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-Sep	2	3	4
				4:30 Organ Rhs. 6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
5 9am Worship 11:30am Community Dinner	6 Office Closed 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	7 7pm Book Club	8 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	9 4:30 Organ Rhs. 6pm Sr. Choir	10 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	11
12 Noisy Offering	13 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	14 Set Up Rummage Sale 9am Martha Circle 1:30pm Rachel Circle 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 7:30pm Finance	15 Set Up Rummage Sale 7pm Confirmation Orientation Students & Parents	16 Set Up Rummage Sale 4:30 Organ Rhs. 6pm BSA 6pm Sr. Choir	17 9am Rummage Sale 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	18 9:00—Noon Rummage Sale
19 8:14 & 10:45 Worship 9:30am New Member Class	20 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline	21 Ps Bob/Chris Vacation 9:30am BSA 1:30pm Staff Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 8:15 & 10:45 Worship	27 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council	28	29	30 4:30 Organ Rhs. 6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	

September Celebrations

Birthdays

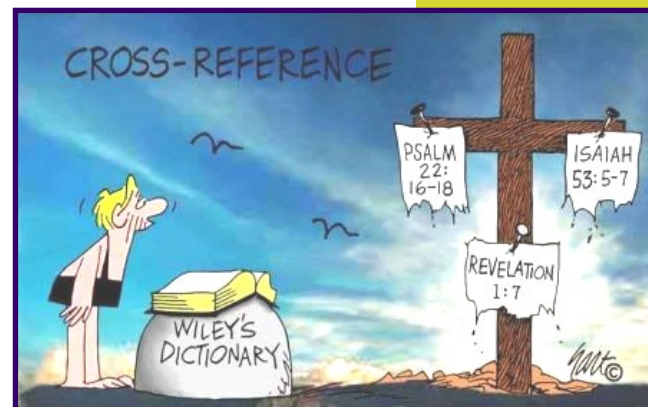
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Tricia Cox	9/1	Sharon Thompson	9/16
Peggy Fruchey	9/1	Abbey Haudenschild	9/17
Matthew Holbach	9/1	Brian Fruchey	9/19
Daphne Maag	9/2	Blaine Peters	9/19
Rylie Reed Needles	9/2	Douglas Schriner	9/19
Tad Schell	9/3	Scott Schriner	9/19
Carol Meyer	9/4	James Clayton Sr.	9/20
Evan Pitt	9/5	Margaret Maag	9/20
Kristen Buck	9/6	Sally Rice	9/20
Martha Schmidt	9/6	Robert Stacy	9/20
Mike Waltermeyer	9/6	Samantha Franks	9/21
O. Ruth Meyer	9/8	Doris Staschiak	9/21
Shelby Bower	9/9	Lisa Cox	9/22
Carolyn Bryant	9/9	Alexandria Johnson	9/23
Makenzie Tatum	9/9	Shirley Phillips	9/23
Cynthia Rotman	9/11	Jeff Haudenschild	9/28
Elaine Timbrook	9/11	Michael Thompson	9/28
Alan Hartzell	9/12	Debra McMillen	9/29
Kimberly Fultz	9/16	Marilynn Dunn	9/30
Sidney Hoover	9/16	Suzanne Kirk	9/30
		Mary Lou McCann	9/30



Anniversaries

Craig & Beth Meier	9/3/1994	27
Steve & Traci Roth	9/3/1994	27
Michael & Sue Baxter	9/5/1970	51
Jerry & Carolyn Bryant	9/11/1965	56
Robert & Arlene Schriner	9/11/1982	39
Robert & Kristina Rodman	9/14/2002	19
Gary & Virginia May	9/17/1987	34
Tim & Dawn Franks	9/19/1998	23
Gary & Debra McMillen	9/20/1968	53
Rob & Amber Leipheimer	9/21/2002	19
Robert & Patricia Stacy	9/23/1950	71
Mike & Chris Zawisza	9/26/1998	23



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Findlay, OH 45840

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Return Service Requested:



Mailed around
September 1, 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

Worship

Sept. 5th
at 9:30

Beginning
Sept. 12th
8:15 & 10:45



www.1stLutheranChurch.org

412-422-2638